

From: Pete Priel
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I have been an information technology professional since 1991. In my present career I'm a computer consultant that supports Windows and Macintosh computers. My Macintosh business is almost nil and the clients I do have on Mac are all phasing them out -- even though the Macs are fast, and run MS Office quite well. And now more than ever when Mac OS X costs \$149 to upgrade and Windows XP costs \$50 more at \$199 -- those clients are still staying the course and phasing out Macs and PC's running other operating systems and software.

How can this be...

FACT: DOJ has determined Microsoft to be a monopoly.

Even though the judgment was recent, this has been the case since 1995. And is still the case, now! How can you explain it when people \$50 more for a product to upgrade even though the competitive product is equal and in many cases superior: Monopoly. How can it be that my Mac clients are phasing out their 2 year old Macs and buying Machines with Windows XP pre-installed without paying for the cost of the operating system: Monopoly. Here's the Microsoft strategy even now: Lose money on Windows XP on the new PC's and since Windows is the only choice in the desktop arena, inflate the price charged for upgrades. And from my economics 101 class Microsoft can only do this because they do in fact have a Monopoly.

THIS IS UN-AMERICAN!

DOJ has a tough job. How to remedy? The goals of remedy are correct. But I would urge:

1. Publish ALL Windows API information
2. Chaperon Bill and Ballmer so they are force to share this for 10 years
3. Have a group validate the API as to it's correctness
4. Have 2 & 3 be implemented though an International standards group like the ISO, ANSI or some other such organization

And more to the point

1. Force M\$ to charge a normal market value for their OS to hardware VARs like Compaq, Dell, Gateway, etc.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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